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## ADB launches AP3F fund

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The **Asian Development Bank (ABD)** has launched the operations of the Asia-Pacific Project Preparation Facility (AP3F), a multi-donor trust fund that aims to help developing countries in the region in the preparation of bankable PPP projects.

"We are pleased to launch the facility's operations and boost our support to our developing member countries in their efforts to attract private sector participation in infrastructure," said Ryuichi Kaga, head of ADB's Office of Public-Private Partnerships.

"Improving the quality and delivery of infrastructure projects will create investment opportunities for the private sector, a key partner for addressing Asia's massive infrastructure needs."

The fund so far has put together some US\$73m of commitments. They come from Japan (US\$40m), Canada (C\$20m or about US\$16m), Australia (A\$10m or about US\$7m), and ADB itself (US\$10m).

The fund will focus on projects such as water supply and waste-water, power, highways, ports and hospitals. Regions covered will be Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam for South-East Asia; Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for South Asia; Kazakhstan for Central Asia; and Fiji, PNG and Timor Lester for the Pacific area.

At the same time, *Patrick Blanchard* has been retained as the consultant to the fund and will be reporting to Kaga. Blanchard, who has his own consulting firm and has had more than 30 years of project finance experience. He was previously with Alstom, Dexia, Credit Agricole Indosuez and others.



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